

Appl. No. 10/801,978  
Response dated February 28, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 30, 2004

**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended. No new matter has been added to the application.

Claim 39 was objected to. Claim 39 has been amended and is believed proper.

Claim 43 was objected to. Claim 43 is now canceled without prejudice.

Claim 58 was objected to. Claim 58 has been amended and believed proper.

Claims 39, 41, and 43-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crake in view of Moore et al. and White.

Claims 40 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crake in view of Moore and White, and further in view of Buckley et al. and Nunley.

Claims 58, 60, 62, 63, 65, and 67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crake in view of Gunther, Jr., et al. and Sholl et al.

Claims 59 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crake in view of Gunther and Sholl and further in view of Buckley et al. and Nunley.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 68 and 70 were allowed over the prior art. In rejecting the other claims, the Examiner relies upon Crake and White and Bulkley et al. Neither Crake nor White nor Bulkley et al. discloses an important element of claims 39 and 58 namely a self propelled hull. Moore does not position a leg aft near the transom as claimed. Gunther and Sholl teach away from the present invention by requiring outboard or outrigger style supports for holding the legs away from the hull, thus not providing recesses in the hull for receiving part of each of the pads as claimed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

Respectfully submitted,

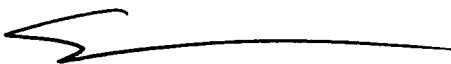


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 28 Feb, 2005.



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